savings bank accounts to the legal successor of a deceased customer;

(b) whether Government have framed any orders/regulations in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Ordinarily payment of balances standing to the credit of a deceased depositor requires the claimant to produce legally accepted evidence of title. However, to avoid the delays involved in obtaining such evidence in respect of small depositors, banks have evolved procedures whereunder the balances standing to the credit of the deceased depositors are paid to successors after obtaining certain documents such as claim application, death certificate, indemnity bond/ sureties, consent letters from other legal heirs affidavit indicating particulars of legal heirs, etc.

Now depositors have the facility of nominating the person/s to whom balances to the credit of their accounts should be paid after their demise.

Evasion of Excise Duty by Beedi manufacturers

1354. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a large scale evasion of excise duty by beedi manufacturers in collusion with the local excise officials in Allahabad region, especially in Gursahai Ganj, Farrukhabad; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No case of evasion of excise duty by beedi manufacturers in collusion with the excise officials in Gursahai Ganj and Farrukhabad and in Allahabad region has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above. However, as a precautionary measure, the preventive and intelligence set-up in the above regions have been further strengthened.

Interest paid to the claimed of decision depositors

1355. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the claimants of deceased depositors in the nationalised banks are entitled to get the full amount with up to date interest on the deposits at the time of final settlement; and

(b) if not, what are the cases in which interest on such deposits is not payable to the claimants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Banks are required to pay interest on the balances to the credit of deceased depositors in accordance with the directives of the Reserve Bank. Such deposits with prescribed interest upto the date of withdrawal are payable by the banks to the legal heirs of the deceased depositors.

(b) Does not arise.

News item captioned "Customs Detain Hepatitis Kits"

1356. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in "The Afternoon Despatch & Courier" of July 10, 1986 published from Bombay captioned "Customs Detain Hepatitis kits"; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?